

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States commemorating the harvest reaped by the Plymouth Colony in 1621, after a winter of great starvation and privation. In that year Gov. William Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving, and the feast was shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native Americans. Although similar observances were held locally, they were sporadic and at no set time.

After the American Revolution the first national Thanksgiving Day, proclaimed by George Washington, was Nov. 26, 1789. Abraham Lincoln, urged by Sarah J. Hale, revived the custom in 1863, appointing as the date the last Thursday of November. In 1939, 1940, and 1941 Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Thanksgiving the third Thursday in November. When a contradiction arose between Roosevelt's proclamation and some of those of state governors, Congress passed a joint resolution in 1941 decreeing that Thanksgiving should fall on the fourth Thursday of November. The day is observed by church services and family reunions; the customary turkey dinner is a reminder of the four wild turkeys served at the Pilgrims' first thanksgiving feast.

Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside each year for giving thanks to God for blessings received during the year. On this day, people give thanks with feasting and prayer. The holiday is celebrated in the United States and Canada.

The first Thanksgiving Days in New England were harvest festivals, or days for thanking God for plentiful crops. For this reason, the holiday still takes place late in the fall, after the crops have been gathered. For thousands of years, people in many parts of the world have held harvest festivals. The American Thanksgiving Day probably grew out of the harvest-home celebrations of England. In the United States, Thanksgiving is usually a family day, celebrated with big dinners and joyous reunions. The very mention of Thanksgiving often calls up memories of kitchens and pantries crowded with good things to eat. Thanksgiving is also a time for serious religious thinking, church services, and prayer.

The first Thanksgiving observance in America was entirely religious and did not involve feasting. On Dec. 4, 1619, a group of 38 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation, on the James River near what is now Charles City, Virginia. The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God.

The first Thanksgiving in New England was celebrated in Plymouth less than a year after the Plymouth colonists had settled in America. The first dreadful winter in Massachusetts had killed about half the members of the colony. But new hope arose in the summer c '621. The settlers expected a good corn harvest, despite poor crops of peas, wheat, and barley. Thus, in early autumn, governor William Bradford arranged a harvest festival to give thanks to God for the progress the colony had made.

The festival lasted three days. The men of Plymouth had shot ducks, geese, and turkeys. The menu also included clams, eel and other fish, wild plums and leeks, corn bread, and watercress. The women of the settlement supervised cooking over outdoor fires. About 90 Indians also attended the festival. They brought five deer to add to the feast. Everyone ate outdoors at large tables and enjoyed games and a military review. Similar harvest Thanksgivings were held in Plymouth during the next several years, but no traditional date was set.

Later Thanksgiving Days in the United States. The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England

colonics. During the Revolutionary War, eight special days of thanks were observed for victories and for being saved from dangers. In 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation naming November 26 a day of national thanksgiving. In the same year, the Protestant Episcopal Church announced that the first Thursday in November would be a regular yearly day for giving thanks.

giving thanks. For many years, the country had no regular national Thanksgiving Day. But some states had a yearly Thanksgiving holiday. By 1830, New York had an official state Thanksgiving Day, and other Northern states soon followed its example. In 1855, Virginia became the nation's first Southern state to adopt the custom. Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, worked many years to promote the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day. Then President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in

Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book, worked many years to promote the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day. Then President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1863, as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." Each year afterward, for 75 years, the President formally proclaimed that Thanksgiving Day should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November. But in 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set it one week earlier. He wanted to help business by lengthening the shopping period before Christmas. Congress ruled that after 1941 the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal federal holiday.

Thanksgiving Day in Canada is celebrated in much the same way as in the United States. It was formerly celebrated on the last Monday in October. But in 1957, the Canadian government proclaimed the second Monday in October to be the holiday.

Joan R. Gundersen, "Thanksgiving Day," World Book Online Reference Center, November 20, 2003, http://www.worldbookonline.com/ar?/na/ar/co/ar553320.htm



by Catherine R. Smith CathyRSmit@aol.com

My good friend Nita Bynum sent me the following story. It is entitled "A Real Friend."

I really appreciate the sentiment, and extend it to you to pass along to your "real" friends.

A Real Friend

A simple friend has never seen you cry. A real friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A simple friend doesn't know your parents' first names

A real friend has their phone numbers in his address book.

A simple friend brings a bottle of wine to your party. A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed.

A real friend asks you why you took so long to call.

A simple friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.

A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history.

A real friend could blackmail you with it.

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest. A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps HERself.

A simple friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument.

A real friend calls you after you had a fight.

A simple friend expects you to always be there for them.

A real friend expects to always be there for you!

COMMUNITY

Give Thanks to George Washington for Thanksgiving

1789 Newspaper Reveals Washington is Father of Thanksgiving

submitted by Margaret Kuhn, Media Relations Manager for George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, www.mountvernon.org

Americans don't know it and children aren't taught it, but George Washington is responsible for our Thanksgiving holiday. It was our first president who led the charge to make this day of thanks a truly national event - not the Pilgrims and not Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1789, George Washington issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation, designating for "the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving" to be held on "Thursday the 26th day of November," 1789, marking the first national celebration of a holiday that has become commonplace in today's households. While subsequent presidents failed to maintain this tradition, it was Washington's original Proclamation that guided Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation. In fact, Lincoln issued his proclamation on the same day, October 3, and marked the same Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, as Washington, setting Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November after our first president's example. The proclamation was printed in newspapers, including the October 9, 1789 issue of the Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser.

George Washington first mentioned the possibility of a national Thanksgiving Day in a confidential letter to James Madison in August 1789 (just months after taking office), asking for his advice on approaching the Senate for their opinion on "a day of thanksgiving." By the end of September 1789, a resolution had been introduced to the House of Representatives requesting that "a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States, to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving." The committee put the resolution before the president and George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Proclamation within days.

Washington knew the value of a thanksgiving day long before becoming our first president. During the Revolutionary War, he would order special thanksgiving services for his troops after successful battles, as well as publicly endorse efforts by the Continental Congress to proclaim days of thanks, usually in recognition of military victories and alliances. The concept of thanksgiving was not new to the citizens of the new United States. Colonists even before the Pilgrims often established Thank Days to mark certain occasions. These one-time events could occur at any time of the year and were usually more solemn than the Thanksgiving we observe today, emphasizing prayer and spiritual reflection.

Thanksgiving was not made a legal holiday until 1941 when Congress named the fourth Thursday in November as our national day of thanks in answer to public outery over President Roosevelt's attempt to prolong the Christmas shopping season by moving Thanksgiving from the traditional last Thursday to the third Thursday of November.



The Hansford County Reporter-Statesmai

HANSFORD HAPPENINGS

Register Tapes for Education - Gus Birdwell Elem. The Gus Birdwell Elementary PTO is proud to announce that they are saving register tapes for educational equip ment. Register tapes can be collected from any Lowe's store and redeemed toward valuable educational equipment such as computers, science, band or sports equipment and more The program kicked off on September 1, 2003 and register tapes can be collected until March 31, 2004. The students and faculty of Gus Birdwell Elementary would appreciate your support by saving your register tapes from Lowe's ir order to help them receive their needed equipment. Registe tapes may be taken to the Elementary Office.

Register Tapes for Education - Pringle-Morse CISD Pringle-Morse CISD is proud to announce that they are saving register tapes for educational equipment. Registe tapes can be collected from any Lowe's store and redeemed toward valuable educational equipment such as computers science, band or sports equipment and more. The program kicked off on September 1, 2003 and register tapes can be collected until March 31, 2004. The students and faculty o Pringle-Morse CISD would appreciate your support by sav ing your register tapes from Lowe's in order to help them receive their needed equipment. Register tapes may be given to a Pringle-Morse CISD student or mailed to: Pringle Morse CISD, PO Box 109, Morse, TX 79062.

Senior Citizen's Book Exchange

Senior Citizen's Book Exchange For those who are 55 or older and are tired of reading the same old book, come to the Golden Spread Center and exchange your book for something more exciting. Don' have a book to exchange? That's okay, come and get ond any way. We have mysteries, biographies, romance Christian books, you name it, we've got it! 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,Golden Spread Center, The O'Loughlin Center, 50; Brandt, 659-3030 Donations appreciated.

Medical Fund Established for Roney Clark A fund has been established at First State Bank for Rone and Veann Clark to help with medical expenses.

Medical Fund Established for Ashley Bates A fund has been established at First National Bank fc Ashley Bates to help with medical expenses. Ashley, the daughter of Debbie and Larry Hornsby, was injured in a ca accident on Wednesday, November 12th and was taken to Lubbock, where she remains hospitalized with multiple injuries. injuries.

Spearman Boy Scouts Meet The Spearman Boy Scout Troop meets every Tuesda night from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Scout Hall, located at 5t and Hazelwood. Doug Cummings is the Scout Master. A boys age 11-18 are invited to attend and find out more about scouting. All Scouts are reminded to attend every meeting For more information, call 659-3942 or 659-2378 Don Forget - Boy Scouts are currently delivering and sellin Trails End Popcorn. Buy yours today!

Panhandle Crisis Center Outreach Office Panhandle Crisis Center (PCC) now has an Outreac Office in the Pittman-Shieldknight Building, 511 SW 11t Avenue, Suite 105, in Spearman. In case of emergencies please continue to call the hotline, 1-800-753-5308. T schedule an appointment with a worker in Hansford Count please call 659-3391 to leave a message, or call the hotlin number above. Panhandle Crisis Center serves victims (domestic violence and sexual assault. Please call for mor domestic violence and sexual assault. Please call for mor information regarding PCC's services.

Public Education In Texas

Public education in Texas is for every child. Don't leav any child behind. The children of Texas come in all size shapes, colors, and abilities. They do not all learn the sam way, but they ALL do learn. Do you know of an infant, chili or young adult who does not learn easily or has an impat-ment that might affect his/her success in life? Do you kno that public school programs can serve these children froi birth to age 21? For more information, call Marsha Murph Special Education Director, at (806) 435-4412.

Child Find

Child find is the ongoing process of locating children (age infant-21 years) with disabilities for special education servies. If you know a child who shows signs of developme delay, ongoing behavioral or medical problems that interfer with learning, find out how you can help by calling Gruv

A simple friend will bail you out of jail. A real friend will be sitting there next to you in the cell & say, "Darn! That was fun!!"

Today I pass the friendship ball to you. Pass it on to someone who is a friend to you.

May God bless and keep you; May He make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up is countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Catherine :)

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Gary Smith - Publisher • Catherine Smith - Editor Harletta Carthel - Assist. Editor Helen Fisher, Dorothy Hudson . Contrib. Photographer: Charlie Johnson

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Open Display rates are \$4.50 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$5 for the first 25 words and 10¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week if billed.

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ISD at 733-2031, Spearman ISD at 659-2565, Pringle-More CISD at 733-2507, or the Child Find coordinator at Regic 16 Education Service Center at (806)376-5521.

PANHANDLE PLANNER

Wesley Methodist Church's Festival of Arts & Crafts Wesley United Methodist Church of Hereford will be hos ing its 23rd Annual Festival of Arts and Crafts, Decemb 6th, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center Hereford. Only a limited number of booths are availabl Booth fee is \$10.00. Applications may be obtained by writi or calling Ellen Collins, 801 Mile St. Hereford, TX 7904 Phone: (806) 364-0774 Phone: (806) 364-0774.

American Society of Agricultural Appraisers Semina The American Society of Agricultural Appraisers is offerin a 4-1/2 day Personal Property Appraisal Seminar Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, December 10-14, 2003. This sen nar is designed specifically for those who currently are, desire to become, a livestock, farm equipment or hor appraiser. This is an excellent opportunity for those who a looking to enter the appraisal profession and for tho appraisers who desire to enhance their professional appra al skills. Topics covered include principles of appraising, vi uation methodology, market research and analysis, appra al report writing and the Uniform Standards of Profession Appraisal Practice. This is Don't Miss opportunity! For mc information, call 1-800-488-7570 or go to www.amaga praisers.com. praisers.com.

Panhandle Community Services Utility Classes Set Funding is now available from Panhandle Commun Services for those who need help with their utility bills. Util classes will be held for co-pay clients the second Friday every mont at the Expo Center in Perryton from 10-10: a.m. These classes are mandatory for clients who wish continue receiving help in paying utility bills. For more infimation, call PCS at (806) 435-2478.

HOSPICELINK Offers Aid for Terminal Illness / Bereavement

HOSPICE LINK help people needing information and ec cation about hospice care and makes referrals hospices all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national to free telephone number is 88-331-1620. HOSPICE LINK is service of the Hospice Education Institute, an independent service of the Hospice Education Institute, an independe non-profit organization founded in 1985. There is no char for any HOSPICE LINK service. Since taking its first call 1986, HOSPICE LINK has helped literally hundreds of the sands of people in facing the challenges of coping with e -of lid-issues. For more information about the Hospi Education Institute and its many programs and service please call 800-331-1620 or 207-255-8800, e-mail t organization at hospiceall2aol.com, or write to Three Ur Square, P.O. Box 98, Machiasport, Maine 04655-009 HOSPICE LINK lines are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p. weekdays, Eastern time. weekdays, Eastern time.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

Our Deepest Sympathy

FRANCES "FANNIE" SPARKS VENNEMAN



SPEARMAN - Frances "Fannie" Sparks Venneman died Tuesday, November 18, 2003. Services were at 11 a.m. Friday, November 21, 2003 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Guillermo Morales officiating. Burial was in Hansford Cemetery by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home. Mrs. Venneman was a homemaker.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She was one of 12 children. She married John Venneman on

April 23, 1941. She graduated from Spearman High School and attended

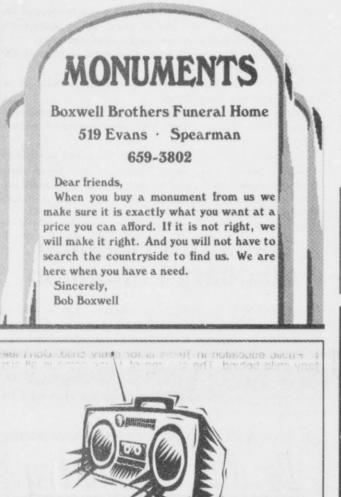
college in Greeley, CO. She graduated from West Texas State Teacher's College

She taught fourth grade in Hitchland and Spearman. She and her husband lived on their farm 20 miles northwest of Spearman. She also lived in Amarillo while her children attended Catholic schools. She and Johnny loved their children and grandchildren and

instilled in them a great sense of family. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1987; and her par-

ents, J.G.B. and Lizzie Douglas Sparks. Survivors include a son, Joe T. Venneman, and wife, Linda, of Gruver; two daughters, Hattie Marie Davis of Hooker, OK, and Mary Elizabeth Venneman of Spearman; three grandsons, Klint Venneman of Spearman, Mark Davis of Hooker, OK, and Micah Davis of Weatherford, OK; three granddaughters, Holly Gifford of Amarillo, Kim Cooper of Dallas and Kaley Martens of Weatherford; and three great-grandchildren, Morgan and Kennedy Venneman and Gus Gifford.

The family suggests memorials be to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



COMMUNITY

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

To the evil coward that took his sickness out on C.L. Martins colts – you must be a miserable, unhappy person. Rest must not colts - you must be dark soul. Get some help before it's too late. God come easy to your data you have done and there is no place to hide! I am outraged your evil has invaded our community and everyone I am outraged your error should be taken to get you off the streets!

name withheld at writers request

Dear Editor,

I am sorry, but I must be myself, and disagree with you. There is no heroism in war, only cowardice. Cowardice because we give up on peace. And Love.

We started the war with Japan by blockading them, when they were only trying to follow in the example of Britain and the United States with colonialism in the Asian theatre. By blockading them, Roosevelt was deliberately trying to provoke them to attack us, in order to get the country, the United States, in a war mood, and then having an excuse to help Churchill in the European theatre. There is evidence that we knew up to three days in advance that they were going to attack Pearl Harbor, and did nothing to stop it. Diplomacy was the loser, when it should have taken precedence

There was also the British disregarding intelligence that the Germans were going to attack at least one British city, in order to not reveal that they had broken the German code.

War is cowardice, not honorable, not heroism against evil. Mahatma Gandhi had it right. Peace before anything else. And we have a lot to be ashamed about as a country, not withstanding Kate Smith, and "God Bless America". If it really were, "Stand beside her, and guide her", God would not have anything to do with our present actions in Iraq and the Middle East, we would be exporting the one commodity that the whole world needs, Love. Non-violence. We have blood on our hands.

Bob Bort

2110 3rd Avenue #1 Canyon, Texas 79015-3035 (806) 655-1465

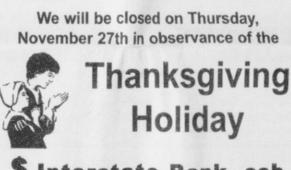
P.S. The full scoop, is that we thought we could provoke them to attack our interests in the Phillipines, to allow Roosevelt to declare war on Japan and Germany, and didn't think the Japanese could attack all the way in Hawaii.

But the fact remains, we had the intelligence that they were going to do so, and disregarded it. It was Presidential politics at its worst, unless you consider the present President, and his (bogus) "intelligence" on Iraq.

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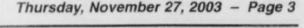
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Editor's Note: This Happy Birthday list is run as a public service by the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman. We apologize if any names are misspelled. If you know of a name that needs to be changed, added or deleted, please call 659-3434.

November 27

Birthday - Jim Potts, Dorothy Evans, Marilyn Davis, Jackie Nelson, Monty Ross, Tony Pacheco, Susan Poole, Jesse Moreno Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Dale Wofford, Mr. & Mrs. James Winger, Mr. & Mrs. James Dorman, Mr. & Mrs. Ty Williams

November 28

Birthday - Casey Smith, Clint Williams, Jeanie Jeanie Clint McClellan, Frank Shields, Patty Spoonemore, Thelma Schick, Caroline Ford. Jennye Womble, Pat Hamilton, Harley Murrell, Marie Belle Vargas, Rick Howard, Toni Pittman, Tammy Red, Darlene Curry Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Julian Rodriguez, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Matthews

November 29

Birthday - Brian Presley, Steven Salazar, Wanda Wagner, Genna Floyd, Robert Browning, Ciria Vela, Ted Vela, Troy Lane Brown, Brenda Salgado, Amanda Burress

Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Ford, Mr. & Mrs. David Schick, Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garcia, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Tripp, Mr. & Mrs. Brad Hart

November 30 Birthday - Cass Cooper, Roxane Holt, Rosie McClenagan, Judy Stedje, Miranda Thoreson, Adalyn Barnes, Dan Desimone, Don Maize, Jed Meisner, Mark Nelson, Judy Speck, Steve Harnish, Ernest Bowen, Eulalia Reyes, Mary Reyes, Marion Mitchell, Lisa Payne, David Reid

Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Ross Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Rick Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. Luis Salazar

December 1

Birthday Georgia Davidson, Robert Stayton, Peggy Archer, Debra Dennis, Peggy Ellsworth, Bill Martin, Brian Paul, Shane Vela, Eleen Wright, Sha Lynn Harris, Lynn Vela, Jennifer Neff December 2

Birthday - Audrey Beasley, Don Dillow, Paul Stavlo, Mike Close, Sharon Freeman, Kristin Dunnihoo, Ginger McClellan, Dora Womble, Jana Price, James Terry, Amanda Gaines, Blare Title, Christi Cooper, Cecilla Favela

December 3

Birthday Shell Haynes, Bethany Harris, Lila (Mike) Kevin Harris, Hergert, Francisco Lozano, Jewell King, Alvin Auld, Mark Taylor, Jenny Neff

Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Joe Baca, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hand, Mr. & Mrs. Elbert Dorton, Mr. & Mrs. John Haynes

December 4

Birthday - Chris Spivey, Lynn Stedje, Denise Lynn Ferguson, Heather Gikas, Kristy Easley, Imogene Baker, Joyce Duncan, Tim Imogene Fletcher, Amber Newman, Kristina Christian, Aleta Jackson

Anniversary - Kent & Tammy Benton

December 5 Birthday - Martha Haden, Billy Dearmond, Mike Skinner, Dale Randall, Arbeta Nobels, Gwen Smith, Norman Scroggs, Susie Oakley, Beatrice Comp, Susie Oakley, Cory Marrs

Anniversary - Alfonso & Carrie Ceniceros, Mr. & Mrs. Don Kunlseman

December 6

Birthday - Ryan Ramón, Penny Kruse, Coleen Penny Coleen Brummett, Ed Dear, Mrs. Johnny Gaither, Cecelia Randall, Mayleea Castillo, Harnden, Kelli Carolyn Cummings, Lisa Keetch, Mary Venneman, Chevy Smith, Jerald Ray Scribner,

Jenna McElroy Anniversary - Burl & Nellie Buchanan, Bill & Ginger Pittman

December 7

Birthday - Sheldon Atwood, Brenda Bayless, Del à Janell Haefner, Bret Hobbs, Cynthia Williams, Emily Williams, C.L. Pierce, Sue Bowling, Carlee Dixon, H.E. Jenkins, Thane McCloy, Zach Gallimore, Dusty Hodge, Beth Dudley, Beverly Antalek

Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Willard McCloy

December 8

Birthday - Stan TeeBeest, Reynaldo Garza, Lawrence Tindell, Scott Slater, Hershel Carmen Jones, Arjona, Jason Holton, Michelle Cook Kaman, Theresa Davis, Tim Weldon, Bruce Stinson, Morgan Lackey, LaVerne Parks

Anniversary - John & Sammie Bishop

December 9 Birthday - Clayton Smith, Verna Finley, Grant Odom, Matt Overbey, Marlene Winger, J.H. Campbell Jr., Gail Vanlandingham, Elodia Papay, Flores, Melana Shawn Cook, Juan Garcia Jr., Elda DeSantiago, Maddie Rose Stork

HOW LONG AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT **DO YOU REMEMBER THE STORY!**

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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Anniversary - Mr. & Mrs. Don Knox

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<u>Spearman</u>

Apostolic Faith Church 822 S. Dressen • 659-2870 Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Worship Service: 11 a.m. Sun. Eve.: 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m. Pastor - Roland Haney

First Assembly of God 401 N. Bernice • 659-2295 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:35 a.m. Kid's Church: 10:35 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wed. Worship: 7 p.m. Wed. Youth: 7 Pastor - Bob Elder

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 29 S. Bernice • 659-2036 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:50 a.m. Minister - Gary Smith

First Baptist Church 123 N. Bernice • 659-5557 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Evening Worship: 7 p.m. Wed. Fellowship Meal: 6 p.m. Wed. Disc. Time: 6:30 p.m. Wed. Vouth Mig.: 8 p.m. Pastor - Patrick Six

Church of Christ 121 S. Haney • 659-3244 Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Bible Study Wed: 7:30 p.m. KRDF Radio Program Living WiChrist: 7:50 a.m. Minister - Leonard Harper

Sacred Heart Catholic Church 901 Roland • 659-2792 Sat, Night Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sun, Mass: 9 a.m. - Englist (aired on KRDF-FM 98.3) Sun. Mass: 11:30 - Spanish 1:30 p.m., - Gruver - Christo Rendentor Mass - Spanish Rev. Guillermo Morales

First United Methodist 407 S. Haney • 659-5503 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m. Jr. High Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday High School: 6 p.m.. Sunday Kids Club: 3 p.m. Wed. Pastor - Ken Cole

Grace Presbyterian Church (Worships with Faith Lutheran Chu 1101 Bernice • 659-2033 Pastor - Beverly Cook nurch)

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1101 Bernice • 659-2252 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worships with Grace Presbyterian Church) Pastor - Beverty Cook

Union Church 31 S. Endicott • 659-2644 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship; 6 p.m. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wed Pastor - Bill Sparks

Fellowship Baptist 1102 S. Archer • 659-2783 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Syn. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Youth/Adult Serv.: 7:30 Wed. Pastor - Gene Foster

Primera Mision Bautista Primera Mision Bautusta 502 E. 7th • 659-3991 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m.; Evening: 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7 p.m. Thurs. Visitation: 7 p.m. Pastor Joe Garcia Jr.

El Aposento Alto U.P.C.I. El Aposento Arto U.P.C.I. 1105 S. Roland Domingos: Escuela-Dominical - 10 a.m. Cuito Evangelistico - 7 p.m. Jueves: Oracion - 8 p.m Mier: Estudio Biblico - 7 p.m. Pastor - A.G. Martell (806) 659-2153

Gruver

First Baptist Church 402 E.Broadway • 733-2411 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:50 a.m. Disciple Training: 6 p.m. Sunday Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Pastor - Scott Curry

Church of Christ Church of Christ 209 King + 733-2760 Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:20 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wed. Worship: 7:00 p.m. Minister - Gaylord Cook

First Christian Church First Christian Church 510 King • 733-2960 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Youth: 7:30, Sunday Aduit Bible Study: 7:30, Sunday Med. Bible Study: 8:00 p.m. Pastor - Gary Gumfory

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Gruver United Methodist adway & Garrel 733-2651 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Eve. Worship & UMY: 6 p.m. Pastor - George Price

> Spanish Cristo Redentor Church Sunday Mass: 1:30 p.m Friday Evening Mass Summer - 8:00 p.m. Fall/Winter - 7:30 p.m

Oslo

Oslo Lutheran Church (ELCA) 6 Miles West & 12 Miles North of Gruver 339-7709 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Pastor - Paul Fiske

Waka

Waka Church of the Brethren 435-4598

Morse

Morse Baptist Church 733-2757 Pastor - Mike Martin



Page 4 - Thursday, November 27, 2003

NEWS

Bynum Honored at Annual Lunch, Meeting



Ralph Bynum

Each year the National Multiple Sclerosis Society honors its volunteers for their outstanding contribution to the Society and its cause to end the devastating effects of MS. This year the volunteer lunch will also include a live broadcast of The All American Chapter's Annual Meeting. The volunteer lunch and

October 25, 2003 at the Big Texan at 12:30 pm. The Annual Meeting followed at 2:30 pm.

At the lunch awards and certificates of appreciation were given to individuals who have given unselfishly of their time and talents to MS programs and special events. The following awards were be presented at the lunch

2003 Achievement Award Winner - Larry Dippel: This award is given to a person with MS who continues to excel in their activities and leadership.

Coach Larry Dippel is known as the "Winningest Coach in Amarillo High School Football History". He has also recently been recognized as a "Person of Influence" by the National Association of High School Coaches. He continues to be an amazing example to young athletes and others including his managers and trainers

2003 Volunteer of the Year and All American Chapter Volunteer of the Year - Ralph Bynum: Ralph Bynum is an Advisory Council member, the Moore County NTS Communications MS Walk Coordinator, a trained MS Ambassador and spokesperson, an advocate and a representative for the Division to national legislators, and the list goes on and on. He started the Moore County MS Walk 3 years ago, with the event making \$18,000.00. The last weekend in September, the 3rd Moore County MS Walk raised over \$32,000. His name was entered also into the competition for the Volunteer of the Year for the All Chapter, which America

includes 14 Division offices from Hawaii and Alaska, the Texas Panhandle, and West Virginia to Vermont, and he has been named the Volunteer of the Year for the All America Chapter.

Above and Beyond Awards -Matt and Tiffani Carter, Madeline Ryberg, Shauna Ashley and Kayla Pursley: Each of these individuals has volunteered for the Panhandle Division and exceeded our expectations of service

Shining Star Awards: These awards are presented to individ-uals and businesses who made a contribution of their time and talents to the Panhandle Division for the previous year. Matt Watson - Committee Member for the MS 150, and a new Advisory Council member Jerry Don Williams Incoming Chairman of the Advisory Council, and the

chairman of the Government **Relations** Committee NTS Communications Title Sponsor of the NTS Communications MS Walk in Amarillo, Borger, Canadian and

Dumas Ulrich Bickel Dr. Chairman of the Clinical Advisory Council and recent recipient of an NIH grand fund-

ing MS research. Multiple sclerosis is a chronic unpredictable neurological dis-ease. MS can cause blurred vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue, problems with memory and concentration, paralysis, and blindness. These problems may be permanent, or they may come and go. Every hour of every day, someone is diagnosed with MS. That's 200 Americans each week. MS is typically diagnosed in the "prime of life," when people are building careers and starting families.

National Multiple The Sclerosis Society is leading the way in providing programs for people with MS and their families and friends. Chapters in every state enable the Society to help meet the needs Americans living with MS. Programs provide clients with accurate and current information, help people with MS to find and keep jobs, work with families affected by MS, and address many other concerns. The goal of every program is the self-empowerment of the person with MS

For information about these programs or for information about multiple sclerosis, the public is invited to contact the Panhandle Division of the National MS Society at 806-468-8005 or 24 hours a day phone 1-800-FIGHT-MS.

Whitson Appointed Deputy Director of Texas Agricultural **Experiment** Station

Dr. Robert E. Whitson was appointed Deputy Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in October, 2003. In this capacity, he is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Experiment Station, the state's major agricultural research agency and a part of The Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Whitson received a bachelor of science in range management and master of science in agricultural economics from Texas Tech University. After serving as an area farm and ranch management specialist with Texas Cooperative Extension for three years, Dr. Whitson pursued a doctor of philosophy in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University which he received in 1974. He joined the faculty at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Departments of Range Science and Agricultural Economics and rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 1977. In 1981, he joined the Frost National Bank in San Antonio as Assistant Vice President and was subsequently promoted to Vice President in 1982 and Senior Vice President and Head of the Trust Real Estate Division in 1984.

In May of 1993, Dr. Whitson returned to Texas A&M University to serve as Professor and Head of the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management where he provides leadership for 34 teaching, research and extension faculty who are located on the Texas A&M campus and at six Research and Extension Centers across the state. From January to July of 2002, he also served as Interim Head of the Department of Animal Science and chaired this department's search for a permanent leader.

Dr. Whitson is a member of various honorary societies including Alpha Zeta, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta and appears in American Men and Women of Science, Who's Who in the World, and Who's Who in Finance and Industry. In 1996, he was honored as an outstanding alumnus of the Department of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management at Texas Tech University

Bob and his wife, Linda, have two daughters and 5 grandchildren

2003 MS Walk Results

The National MS Society is pleased to announce the results of he 2003 NTS/Moore County MS Walk held on September 27th. Receipts totaled \$35,269.79, a 22% increase over 2002.

Ralph Bynum, Walk Coordinator, he wishes to express his grattude to everyone who had a part in making this a successful Walk Bynum says, "Our success this year is due to the hard work of the team captains and the continued generosity of local businesses." In-kind donations of goods and services amounted to approximatev \$5.300.

Recognition was recently given to Mary Coltrain, Swift & Company Team Captain for being the top individual fundraiser (not only for the Dumas Walk, but for the entire Panhandle). Other awards were presented to the Moore County team, led by Diane Hoefling and Charlie Hernandez, for raising more than \$4,600; to the Valero team, led by Greg Thompson for the largest team, and to Valero for the best t-shirt design.

Plans are already being made for next year's event to be held on he third Saturday in September, 2004. Bynum encourages anyone who might be interested in becoming a part of this exciting and rewarding opportunity to contact him at 935-4208.

Thank You

The family of Alice M. Lackey wishes to extend our sincere hank you for all the kindness shown by family and friends in your shone calls, visits, flowers, cards, food, prayers, etc. Not many people can stay on this earth for almost 100 years -

and live to tell the many stories of childhood, the depression and nany other happenings of their life, as Alice did. Donna Sheets; Sharon, Richard Lesly & sons; Sue, Randy Felder,

MD & Family; Wayne Woodward; Travis & Elizabeth Durham



The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

Stork Makes Emergency Landing At Local Hospital



by Harletta Carthel

Kibzee Vasquez didn't seem to mind that there was no delivery room at Hansford Hospital when she made her debut Tuesday morning, November 18, 2003.

Her mother Michelle Vasquez was just grateful to be inside the walls of a hospital.

The birth of Kibzee Kamille Vasquez created quite a stir at

both Hansford Hospital, which had not been in the practice of delivering babies for many years, and the Vasquez family, who had planned on their daughters arival to be at Ochlitree General Hospital on November 22.

"My husband Israel and I were getting ready to go to Ochlitree General Hospital in Perryton where Kibzee was to have been born. Issie was in the shower when my dad came to take our children to school," Michelle said. "I told my dad I didn't think the baby could wait until we got to Perryton."

So rather than taking his grandchildren to school as planned, Charles Elliott loaded his daughter in the car and took her to the emergency room of Hansford Hospital. Although there had been no ime to call the hospital to alert the staff to the impending birth, the iming could not have been better as Dr. Garnett was in the hospial when the two arrived, and that fact proved to be most fortunate.

"It was so quick. We had been in the emergency room for only three minutes when Kibzee arrived," Vasquez said.

"The staff found a bed for Kibzee - it might have been an old ncubator, but she was in the bed when Issie arrived."

Israel Vasquez, arriving only minutes later, was unaware of the quick entry Kibzee had made into the world, and was quite taken back when hospital staff members congratulated him.

When he inquired of his wife how the labor was progressing, she pointed to the little bed.

"There's your daughter," Michelle said to her husband as he ooked at the newborn in disbelief.

Kibzee and her mother were later transported by ambulance to Ochlitree General Hospital where both were reported in excellent ondition.

Kibzee, who weighed 6 pounds, 14 and 1/2 pound and was 19 and 1/2 inches long, was released Wednesday to go home where older brother Kendrick, 5, and older sister Kinley, 3, welcomed her. They should be warned, though, their little sister is already eccustomed to doing things her way.

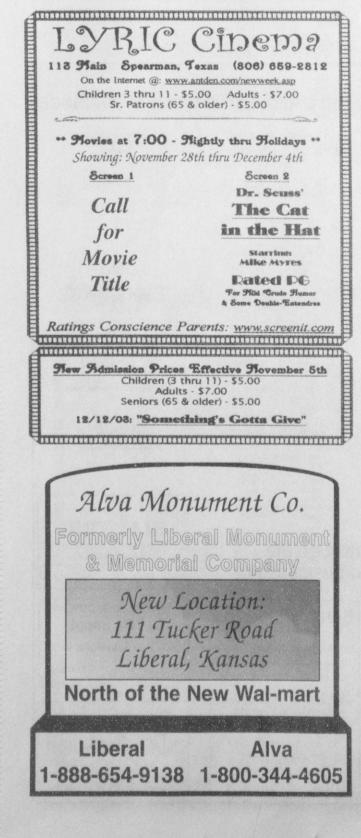
Hansford Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

The Hansford Hospital Auxiliary luncheon will be held on Monday, December 1st at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Judy Nelson. The meal will be catered by Paula Clemmons. It will be dutch treat, and will cost \$6.00 per person.

Following the business meeting and lunch, the meeting will adjourn to the Hospital and Manor to decorate for Christmas.

New members are always welcome. Please plan to attend if you are interested.





Angela Pipkin bride-elect of Ethan Johnson on Saturday, December 6, 2003 from 1:00 -1:30 p.m. in the country home of Marti Garnett Hwy. 207 South, Co. Rd. Z . Spearman You are invited to a Bridal Shower honoring Shelly Hunt bride-elect of Andy Etheredge on Saturday, December 6, 2003 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. in the home of Ann Dorman 907 Womble . Gruver, TX Ralph Depee, D.D.S. Member American Association of Orthodontists Orthodontics For Children and Adults Free exam and estimate of cost Free second opinion Insurance filed 821 S. Amherst Perryton, Texas 1-800-521-0831 (806) 435-2320

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Shelly Hunt & Andy Etheredge - Dec. 6 Grace Davis & Justin Calvert Valerie Perrin & Mac Butts KiKi Carthel & Dave Brabham Shauna Poole & George Chinea Holly Pipkin & Nick Kaluza Ruth Shields & Blake Nelson 'elebrate Gifts for all your celebrations! 203 Main St. • Spearman, TX 1-800-663-8026 (806) 659-3350 «For'l Come by and let us help you set up your special gift table Couples Currently Registered Shelly Hunt & Andy Etheredge - Dec. 6 Grace Davis & Justin Calvert KiKi Carthel & Dave Brabham Ruth Shields & Blake Nelson Holly Pipkin & Nick Kaluza lon's 314 Main Spearman, 659-2141 Texas The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman



We have entered into what we call the "Holiday Mode" at the Manor! So much activity is going on!

The First Christian Church of Spearman had a large crowd for church on Sunday. They sang several songs and then had a worship service. Thank you to all who helped!

Monday morning exercise began with the song Oklahoma. Exercise class evolved around Oklahoma history because it is the time that Oklahoma joined the union.

That afternoon we began giving manicures to male and females alike in preparation for the big party on Thursday night. Manicure time is a good time to spend one-on-one with residents and visit - and of course everyone feels better when they look better. So, spirits were lifted and the anticipation has run high throughout the week- looking forward to the different upcoming special events.

Tuesday morning we had musercise and then back to manicures. Scooter Russell was there to help that afternoon. While manicures were ongoing in the activity room, there were movies going on in the great room.

Thank you, Scooter. (When you meet her you will know why they nicknamed her Scooter. She is a little ball of fire!)

Wednesday morning, Anne Whitaker, brought a great message from the scriptures on angels, found in Psalms 91. Thank you, Anne for such a wonderful, uplifting message.

That afternoon we were busily working on various crafts in preparation for the upcoming holidays.

That evening we had the most delightful blessing! Mark Murray and Keith Hight (among many other leaders) have a group of youth that they have been mentoring for quite a while. They approached me a while back and requested a night for the youth to cook and serve the residents supper. Wednesday night was the night They carried in food for 30 minutes. I could never get a good count on the young people that came, but I'll bet a guess of 20 would not miss the mark much, plus adults to supervise. The food was delicious and the young people did an excellent job of serving residents and staff alike. THANK YOU TO THE YOUTHFUL BODY OF CHRIST! YOU WERE GREAT!

Thursday morning we started off giving facials and working on hairdos in the activity room.

Cindy Blackman and Krista Baird for getting on the ball and finding volunteers from Spearman High School to help us. We had a total of nine volunteers. When they arrived, they started right in helping with facials, hair, and setting up for the supper. They all fell right in getting tables set up, chairs set up, decorating the tables, dishing up desserts, manning their stations, whether it was at the sign-in station or serving

line. I estimate that we fed at least 200 people (including residents, family and friends) and probably more, for Thanksgiving supper. The dietary department did an excellent job preparing the meal and the families of the residents each brought a dessert.

Until we get everything set up and the preparations done it is usually chaos, but the students, maintenance staff, nursing staff, activities staff, etc., all pulled together and were ready to roll on time.

The evening was overflowing with family, friends, and laughter. Good food was consumed until all were filled and then the Barkleys from Gruver entertained. (I especially liked the song about the preacher and the bear.) Then Sharon Barkley sang There'll Never Be Another You. I did want to say though Rod, that song about me smelling bad is totally not true!

We had a wonderful week and want to say special thanks to Rod, Les, Glen Harris, and Sharon Barkley - you made a very enjoyable evening for us

Thank you also to Timberly Thomas, Jackie Elwood, Jessica Villarreal, Marible Moreno, Adriana Mendoza, Sonya Mendoza, Adriana Pinon. Ozvaldo Lomeli, and Jessica Riley. You were great helpers, and even stayed through the clean-up.

Debby Jones won the prize for traveling the farthest hailing in from Maiden, N.C. Christina Salgado won the door prize.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving time with the residents

Friday was kind of low key. Everyone was tired from all the activities of the rest of the week, we had our usual Newscurrents program in the morning and then a sing-a-long that afternoon. Everyone especially enjoyed singing a lot of the older songs such as Battle Hymn of the Republic and Shine on Harvest Moon.

Thank you to all the familie. and friends who came to share Thanksgiving with the residents. It was a great night!

COMMUNITY NEWS



2003--28.21 feet

With the early dateline, Jim did not have much to report. He did say he had seen a pair of immature eagles and a pair of the fully mature bald eagles. It is hard to know the best time to see them, but he said he quite often sees them in trees out in the Lake between 8 and 9 o'clock in the mornings.

Other years they seem to have roosted on the Gibner side, but neither Jim nor Ramon ore sure of where a roost is this fall.

Last week I wrote of Archie Nelson building a rustic bed from chinaberry wood for a grandson. To be correct we should use the term Western Soapberry for the tree, but since we that grew up on the creek always knew it as Chinaberry I expect we will continue to call it that.

I first discovered it in a Park in New Mexico where the trees had little signs identifying them. had labeled the They Chinaberry tree as a Western Soapberry! Since then, I have learned that there is another China Tree, sometimes called Chinaberry , that came from where the creek comes very Asia, whereas our tree is native near the highway.

to this country Since there is a move on now to use native flora to save water, the Chinaberry is coming in to its own for the second time. The wood of this tree, although really hard and dense, splits easily, and at one time it was used to make baskets, crates, and pack saddles. The berries were used for soap. It was very popular in northern Chihuahua where it

was called the jaboncillo. The wood was used as firewood, and the berries were made into beads and buttons. Although the berries are toxic, some birds seem to handle them fine. Bluebirds like them, and turkeys have been known to feast on them to the point of ruining the flavor of their meat. As a yard shade tree, it has the fault of suckering out. One of the garden books said if you cut the first suckers back, that usually stopped.

I don't know if there are any Chinaberry trees in the Park now, but there are groves of them on the Palo Duro north of Gruver. One grove can be seen going from Gruver to Morse near the Turkey Track house Thursday, November 27, 2003 - Page 5

Meetings & Minutes

Gruver ISD

Meeting in regular session November 10, at 6:04 p.m., the GISD Board or Trustees assembled with members Paul Stavlo, Terry Sherrill, Jody Irwin, Davin Winger, Brent Stedje, Dwayne Thompson, and Superintendent David Teal present. Absent was member Buddy Lowe, Jr.

Visitors received were Matt Branstein, Randy Reid, Daine Brown, Mica Been, Rod Been, Rhonda Williams, and Kathy Gillispie.

Reports given by principals included a report of UIL academic contest preparations for the the district meet December 2003 by Junior High Principal Matt Branstine, and a report by Elementary Principal Diane Brown that the elementary school was recommended to apply a a Blue Ribbon School, and a report on the Dyslexia conference attended by Brown and Julie Stedje.

Motions carried by 6-0 votes included District the Improvement Plan and the District Textbook Selection Committee.

Discussion items were the setting of the December meeting for December 16, 2003, at 6 p.m., the student enrollment pattern, the wind power update, the future projected revenue and tax rate the superintendent's evaluation forms, the financial report by Randy Reid, and revenues and expenditures Board member Buddy Lowe arrived at 7 p.m.

The board was in executive session from 7:15 - 7:49 p.m.

Upon entering open session, the motion to approve the settlement agreement with TASB on the roofing project carried by a 7-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Gruver City Council

City Commission Meets

The Gruver City Commission met in regular session Wednesday, November 12 with Robert Blount, Dee Mayfield, and Terry Webster joining com-missioners Chad Logsdon and Johnnie Williams, Mayor Mark Irwin, City Secretary mark Washburn, and City Manager Linda Weller.

The commission voted to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the Panhandle Revenue Recovery Association and the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's Fyo3 Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Project.

Discussion was held with Don Hart concerning his water bill and water line and with Juan Garcia concerning his water leak.

Unclaimed Property Fund Hits \$1 Billion

Strayhorn Comptroller Publishes Annual Unclaimed Property List October 19

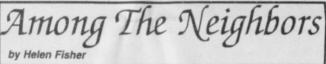
More than 142,000 unclaimed property owners who have lost track of \$71 million in cash and other valuable assets could find their names in Texas newspapers on Sunday, Oct. 19, when Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn publishes the annual Unclaimed Property List.

"This is unclaimed property owned by Texans that has been reported to the state within the last year alone," Strayhorn said.

"When you add up the money that remains unclaimed from previous years, the unclaimed property fund has now reached an incredible \$1 billion. That's money that rightfully belongs to hardworking Texans.

With so much money waiting to be claimed, it is important to take a few minutes to check the Unclaimed Property List every year," Strayhorn said. "As one tough grandma, I know that no Texan can afford to walk away from their hard earned dollars

"While the state is holding



This paper is being issued early so will have more Thanksgiving notes next week.

Thanksgiving is a day of thanks for the blessings we have received. That includes Thanksgiving for those other dear ones that will be, for the inspiration to us all their days and we are thankful to have had

Happy Thanksgiving To All!

this money, it is put to good use to educate our children and provide other essential state services, but I would much rather give it back to its rightful owners, especially in these tough economic times.

In addition to checking the Unclaimed Property List in the newspaper, Strayhorn urges Texans to visit her Unclaimed Property Web site, www.win-dow.state.tx.us/up. The site contains the names of unclaimed property owners on this year's list and from previous years. The online database also includes unclaimed property owners who have less than \$100 in unclaimed property, whose names are not published on the newspaper list.

Unclaimed property can be anything from a forgotten rent or utility deposit, to an uncashed check, a dormant bank account or an abandoned safe deposit box. Banks and businesses turn these assets over to the state after three to five years if the owners cannot be found, but unclaimed property continues to

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belong to its rightful owners. There is no time limit to claim the money

Since Strayhorn took office, she has returned more than \$300 million in unclaimed property to its owners.

GRUVER

Blynn Bryson, Maxine C. Cline, Fenhous, Roland Charolett Gilbreath, Jose G. Hurtado, Oscar Rodriquez, Shapley Shapley & Be <u>MORSE</u> B E Davis Seet Davis

R.E. Davis, Scott Davis

SPEARMAN

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NEWS

Dangerous Religion George W. Bush's Theology of Empire

Editor's Note: The following article was sent to me by a friend. It was first published in the September-October 2003 Sojourner's Magazine. Sojourners, is a Christian ministry whose mission is to proclaim and practice the biblical call to integrate spiritual renewal and social justice.

by Jim Wallis

Religion is the most dangerous energy source known to humankind. The moment a person (or government or religion or organization) is convinced that God is either ordering or sanctioning a cause or project, anything goes. The history, worldwide, of religion-fueled hate, killing, and oppression is staggering. -Eugene Peterson (from the introduction to the book of Amos in the Bible paraphrase The Message)

"The military victory in Iraq seems to have confirmed a new world order," Joseph Nye, dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, wrote recently in The Washington Post. "Not since Rome has one nation loomed so large above the others. Indeed, the word 'empire' has come out of the closet.

The use of the word "empire" in relation to American power in the world was once controversial, often restricted to left-wing critiques of U.S. hegemony. But now, on op-ed pages and in the nation's political discourse, the concepts of empire, and even the phrase "Pax Americana," are increasingly referred to in unapologetic ways.

William Kristol, editor of the influential Weekly Standard, admits the aspiration to empire. "If people want to say we're an imperial power, fine," Kristol wrote. Kristol is chair of the Project for the New American Century, a group of conservative political figures that began in 1997 to chart a much more aggressive American foreign policy. The Project's papers lay out the vision of an "American peace" based on "unquestioned U.S. military pre-eminence." These imperial visionaries write, "America's grand strategy should aim to preserve and extend this advantageous position as far into the future as possible." It is imperative, in their view, for the United States to "accept responsibility for America's unique role in preserving and extending an international order friendly to our security, our prosperity, and our principles." That, indeed, is empire

There is nothing secret about all this; on the contrary, the views and plans of these powerful men have been quite open.

God-and that changes the pic-ture dramatically. It's one thing for a nation to assert its raw dominance in the world; it's quite another to suggest, as this president does, that the success of American military and foreign policy is connected to a religiously inspired "mission," and even that his presidency may be a divine appointment for a time such as this.

Many of the president's critics make the mistake of charging that his faith is insincere at best, a hypocrisy at worst, and mostly a political cover for his rightwing agenda. I don't doubt that George W. Bush's faith is sincere and deeply held. The real question is the content and meaning of that faith and how it impacts his administration's domestic and foreign policies.

George Bush reports a lifechanging conversion around the age of 40 from being a nominal Christian to a born-again believer-a personal transformation that ended his drinking problems, solidified his family life, and gave him a sense of direction. He changed his denominational affiliation from his parents' Episcopal faith to his wife's Methodism. Bush's personal faith helped prompt his interest in promoting his "compassionate conservatism" and the faith-based initiative as part of his new administration.

The real theological question about George W. Bush was whether he would make a pilgrimage from being essentially a self-help Methodist to a social reform Methodist. God had changed his life in real ways, but would his faith deepen to embrace the social activism of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who said poverty was not only a matter of personal choices but also of social oppression and injustice? Would Bush's God of the 12-step pro-gram also become the God who required social justice and challenged the status quo of the wealthy and powerful, the God of whom the biblical prophets spoke?

Then came Sept. 11, 2001. Bush's compassionate conservatism and

faith-based initiative rapidly gave way to his newfound vocation as the

commander-in-chief of the "war against terrorism." Close friends say that after 9/11 Bush found "his mission in life." The self-help Methodist slowly became a messianic Calvinist promoting America's mission to rid the world of evil." The Bush theology was undergoing a critical transformation.

In an October 2000 presidential debate, candidate Bush warned against an over-active American foreign policy and the negative reception it would receive around the world. Bush cautioned restraint. "If we are an arrogant nation, they will resent us," he said. "If we're a humble nation, but strong, they'll welcome us.

The president has come a long way since then. His administration has launched a new doctrine of pre-emptive war, has fought two wars (in Afghanistan and Iraq), and now issues regular demands and threats against other potential enemies. After 11, nations around the Sept. world responded to America's pain-even the French newspaper Le Monde carried the head-We are all Americans line now." But the new pre-emptive and-most critically- unilatoral foreign policy America now pursues has squandered much of that international support.

The Bush policy has become one of potentially endless wars abroad and a domestic agenda that mostly consists of tax cuts, primarily for the rich. "Bush promised us a foreign policy of humility and a domestic policy of compassion," Joe Klein wrote in Time magazine. "He has given us a foreign policy of arrogance and a domestic policy that is cynical, myopic, and cruel." What happened?

A Mission and an Appointment

Former Bush speechwriter David Frum says of the president, "War had made him...a crusader after all." At the outset of the war in Iraq, George Bush entreated, "God bless our troops." In his State of the Union speech, he vowed that America would lead the war against terrorism "because this call of history has come to the right country." Bush's autobiography is titled A Charge to Keep which is a quote from his favorite hymn.

In Frum's book The Right Man, he recounts a conversation between the president and his top speechwriter, Mike Gerson, a graduate of evangelical Wheaton College. After Bush's speech to Congress following the Sept. 11 attacks, Frum writes that Gerson called up his boss and said, "Mr. President, when I saw you on television, I thought-God wanted you there." According to Frum, the president replied, "He wants us all here, Gerson."

Bush has made numerous references to his belief that he could not be president if he did not believe in a "divine plan that supersedes all human plans." As he gained political power, Bush has increasingly seen his presidency as part of that divine plan. Richard Land, of the Southern Baptist Convention, recalls Bush once saying, "I believe God wants me to be president." After Sept. 11, Michael Duffy wrote in Time magazine, the president spoke of "being chosen by the grace of God to lead at that moment.

Every Christian hopes to find vocation and calling that is faithful to Christ. But a president who believes that the nation is fulfilling a God-given rightcous mission and that he serves with a divine appointment can become quite theologically unsettling. Theologian Martin Marty voices the concern of many when he says, The problem isn't with Bush's sincerity, but with his evident conviction that he's doing God's will." As Christianity Today put it, "Some worry that Bush is confusing genuine faith with national ideology." The president's faith, wrote Klein, "does not give him pause or force him to reflect. It is a source of comfort and strength but not of wisdom.

The Bush theology deserves to be examined on biblical grounds. Is it really Christian, or merely American? Does it take a global view of God's world or just assert American nationalism in the latest update of "manifest destiny"? How does the rest of the world-and, more important, the rest of the church worldwide-view America's imperial ambitions?

Getting the Words Wrong

President Bush uses religious language more than any president in U.S. history, and some of his key speechwriters come right out of the evangelical com-munity. Sometimes he draws on biblical language, other times old gospel hymns that cause deep resonance among the faithful in his own electoral base. The problem is that the quotes from the Bible and hymnals are too often either taken out of context or, worse yet, employed in ways quite different from their original meaning. For example, in the 2003 State of the Union, the president evoked an easily recognized and quite famous line from an old gospel hymn. Speaking of America's deepest problems, Bush said, 'The need is great. Yet there's power, wonder-working power, in the goodness and idealism and faith of the American people." But that's not what the song is about. The hymn says there is "power, power, wonderworking power in the blood of the Lamb " (emphasis added)

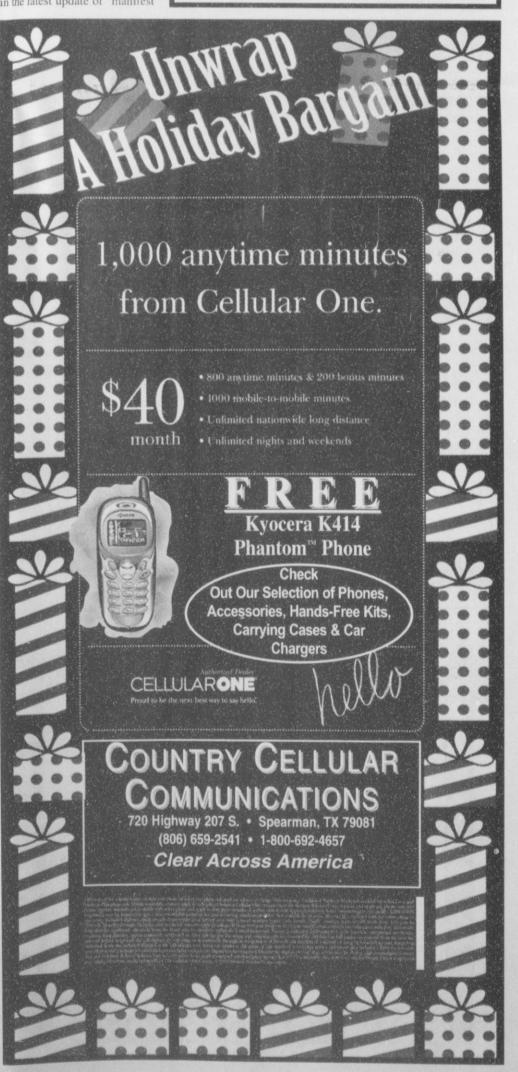
The hymn is about the power of Christ in salvation, not the power of "the American people," or any people, or any country. Bush's citation was a complete misuse.

On the first anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, President Bush said at Ellis Island, "This ideal of America is the hope of all mankind.... That hope still lights our way. And the light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it." Those last two sentences are straight out of John's gospel. But in the gospel the light shining in the darkness is the Word of God, and the light is the light of Christ. It's not about America and its values. Even his favorite hymn, "A Charge to Keep, speaks of that charge as "a God to glorify"-not to "do everything we can to protect the American homeland," as Bush has named our charge to keep.

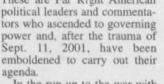
Bush seems to make this mistake over and over again-confusing nation, church, and God. The resulting theology is more American civil religion than Christian faith.

Continued on page 7





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In the run-up to the war with Iraq, Kristol told me that Europe was now unfit to lead because it was "corrupted by secularism," as was the developing world, which was "corrupted by pover-ty." Only the United States could provide the "moral framework" to govern a new world order, according to Kristol, who recently and candidly wrote, Well, what is wrong with dominance, in the service of sound principles and high ideals?" Whose ideals? The American right wing's definition of "American ideals," presumably.

Bush Adds God To this aggressive extension of American power in the world,

President George W. Bush adds



The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

Dangerous Religion George W. Bush's Theology of Empire

Continued from page 6

The Problem of Evil

Since Sept. 11, President Bush has turned the White House "bully pulpit" into a pulpit indeed, replete with "calls" and "missions" and "charges to keep" regarding America's role in the world. George Bush is convinced that we are engaged in a moral battle between good and evil, and that those who are not with us are on the wrong side in that divine confrontation

But who is "we," and does no evil reside with "us"? The problem of evil is a classic one in Christian theology. Indeed, anyone who cannot see the real face of evil in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is suffering from a bad case of postmodern relativism. To fail to speak of evil in the world today is to engage in bad theology. But to speak of "they" being evil and "we" being good, to say that evil is all out there and that in the warfare between good and evil others are either with us or against us-that is also bad theology. Unfortunately, it has become the Bush theology

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the White House carefully scripted the religious service in which the president declared war on terrorism from the pulpit of the National Cathedral. The president declared to the nation, "Our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil." With most every member of the Cabinet and the Congress present, along with the nation's religious leaders, it became a televised national liturgy affirming the divine character of the nation's new war against terrorism, ending triumphantly with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." War against evil would confer moral legitimacy on the nation's foreign policy and even on a contested presidency

What is most missing in the Bush theology is acknowledgement of the truth of this passage from the gospel of Matthew: 'Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye." A simplistic "we are right and they are wrong" theology rules out selfreflection and correction. It also covers over the crimes America has committed, which lead to widespread global resentment against us.

Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote that every nation, political system, and politician falls short of God's justice, because we are all sinners. He specifically argued that even Adolf Hitler to whom Saddam Hussein was often compared by Bush-did not embody absolute evil any more than the Allies represented absolute good. Niebuhr's sense of ambiguity and irony in history does not preclude action but counsels the recognition of limitations and prescribes both humility and self-reflection.

And what of Bush's tendency to go it alone, even against the expressed will of much of the world? A foreign government leader said to me at the beginning of the Iraq war, "The world is waiting to see if America will listen to the rest of us, or if we will all just have to listen to America." American unilateralism is not just bad political policy, it is bad theology as well. C.S. Lewis wrote that he supported democracy not because people were good, but rather because they often were not. Democracy provides a system of checks and balances against any human beings getting too much power. If that is true of nations, it must also be true of international relations. The vital questions of diplomacy, intervention, war, and peace are, in this theological view, best left to the collective judgment of many nations, not just one-especially not the richest and most powerful one.

In Christian theology, it is not nations that rid the world of evil-they are too often caught up in complicated webs of political power, economic interests, cultural clashes, and nationalist dreams. The confrontation with evil is a role reserved for God, and for the people of God when they faithfully exercise moral conscience. But God has not given the responsibility for overcoming evil to a nationstate, much less to a superpower with enormous wealth and particular national interests. To confuse the role of God with that of the American nation, as George Bush seems to do, is a serious theological error that some might say borders on idolatry or blasphemy.

It's easy to demonize the enemy and claim that we are on the side of God and good. But repentance is better. As the Christian Science Monitor put paraphrasing Alexander zhenitzyn. "The gospel, Solzhenitzyn. some evangelicals are quick to point out, teaches that the line separating good and evil runs not between nations, but inside every human heart.'

A Better Way The much-touted Religious Right is now a declining politi-cal factor in American life. The New York Times ' Bill Keller recently observed, "Bombastic evangelical power brokers like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson have aged into irrelevance, and now exist mainly as ludicrous foils." The real theological problem in America today is no longer the Religious Right but the nationalist religion of the Bush administration-one that confuses the identity of the nation with the church, and tion God's purposes with the mission

of American empire. America's foreign policy is more than pre-emptive, it is theologically presumptuous; not only unilateral, but dangerously messianic; not just arrogant, but bordering on the idolatrous and blasphemous. George Bush's personal faith has prompted a profound self-confidence in his "mission" to fight the "axis of evil," his "call" to be commander-in-chief in the war against terrorism, and his definition of America's "responsibility" to "defend the...hopes of all mankind." This is a dangerous mix of bad foreign policy and bad theology.

But the answer to bad theology is not secularism; it is, rather, good theology. It is not always wrong to invoke the name of God and the claims of religion in the public life of a nation, as some secularists say. Where would we be without the prophetic moral leadership of Martin Luther King Jr., Desmond Tutu, and Oscar Romero?

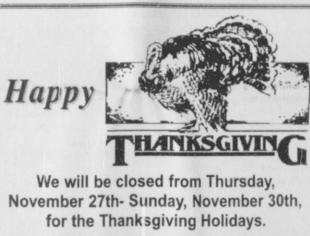
In our own American history, religion has been lifted up for public life in two very different ways. One invokes the name of God and faith in order to hold us accountable to God's intentions -to call us to justice, compasreconciliation.

Martin King perhaps best exemplify that way. Lincoln regularly used the language of scripture. but in a way that called both sides in the Civil War to contrition and repentance. Jefferson said famously, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God IS just

The other way invokes God's blessing on our activities, agendas, and purposes. Many presidents and political leaders have used the language of religion like this, and George W. Bush is falling prey to that same tempta-

Christians should always live uneasily with empire, which constantly threatens to become idolatrous and substitute secular purposes for God's. As we reflect on our response to the American empire and what it stands for, a reflection on the early church and empire is instructive.

The book of Revelation, while written in apocalyptic language and imagery, is seen by most biblical expositors as a commentary on the Roman "King of kings and Lord of



"absolute sway," against which "no one would dare to go to war," is the ancient confession of 'Jesus is Lord." And to live in the promise that empires do not last, that the Word of God will ultimately survive the Pax Americana as it did the Pax Romana

In the meantime, American Christians will have to make some difficult choices. Will we stand in solidarity with the worldwide church, the international body of Christ-or with our own American government It's not a surprise to note that the global church does not generally support the foreign policy goals of the Bush administra tion-whether in Iraq, the Middle East, or the wider "war

on terrorism." Only from inside some of our U.S. churches does one find religious voices consonant with the visions of American empire.

Once there was Rome; now there is a new Rome. Once there were barbarians; now there are many barbarians who are the Saddams of this world. And then there were the Christians who were loyal not to Rome, but to the kingdom of God. To whom will the Christians be loyal today?

Jim Wallis is editor-in-chief of Sojourners.

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We will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27th

in observance of Thanksgiving.



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Page 8 – Thursday, November 27, 2003

School News

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman



There will be no school November 26, 27, and 28 due to the 10 percent of the junior or senior class.

Among those inducted were Brooke Bevill, a junior math education major and Tessa Yanke, a junior bilingual education major, both of Gruver.

Golden Key International **Honour Society Inducts**

Bureau Scholarship



vention December 7 - 8 Participants qualified for the state competition by winning their district contests earlier this year. The finals will be held December 7 at the Convention Center in Waco.

The Free Enterprise Speech winner will receive a \$4,000 scholarship. The runner-up will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. The other four finalists will each receive a

dents during the fall semester.

Membership in Alpha Chi is by invitation only and is limited to students who have completed at least 30 semester hours with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher and who rank in the top

School will be dismissed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

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The Campus District Improvement Panning committee will

Gus Birdwell Elementary

neet at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 3.

Thanks giving!

Thanksgiving holidays.

The Texas Cultural Heritage Center will present a program December 3, at 9:30 - 10:15 in the Little Gym.

Second graders will present a Christmas play at 8:30 and 2:15 on December 4 and again at 8:30 p.m. on December 5.

Spearman Jr. High

School will be dismissed for the Thanksgiving Holiday lovember 26-29. All Spearman schools will dismiss at 1 p.m. or the Thanksgiving holiday.

Spearman High School

School will dismiss at 1 p.m. for the Thanksgiving Holiday. There will be no school November 26-28.

Gruver Elementary

Report cards will be issued Tuesday, November 25.

The second grade will be presenting the play Stone Soup, lovember 25.

Dec 5 - UIL academic competition will find 29 Gruver Elementary students competing at Frank Phillips College.

Gruver Jr. High

Competitors in the UIL writing events of ready writing and editorials will write at school Thursday with winners in the events to be announced at the UIL district academic meet December 5, at Frank Phillips College.

The canned food drive at Gruver Junior High sponsored by the gifted and talented class surpassed its goal of 400 cans of food. 482 cans of food and seven turkeys will be distributed to seven Gruver families as a result of the drive.

Gruver High School

Thanksgiving holidays will be November 26 - 28.

The AP Science students and Gifted and Talented students vill attend a science clinic in Amarillo on December 1

Students will try out for parts in the UIL One-Act Play December 1.

Dallas Dozier Henson

Dallas Dozier Henson of Gruver has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was individually honored during a recent campus ceremony.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Dallas be recognized by Golden Key," said Alexander D. Perwich II, Golden Key's Chief Executive Officer. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service.



Julie May

Texas Farm Bureau youth will take the spotlight on December 7, as scholarships will be awarded to winners of the state's largest general farm organization's Free Enterprise Speech, Miss TFB and Talent Find competitions here at the 70th annual con-

\$1,500 scholarship. The remaining district winners receive \$1,000 scholarships.

The Talent Find and Miss TFB winners will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. The runner-up in each contest will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Other district winners in each contest have been assured a \$1,000 scholarship.

Among the Talent Find entries will be Julie May of Gruver, Hansford County.

Show support for Hansford County Schools with a sponsorship ad. Pages will be dedicated to promoting sports and news featuring Gruver ISD, Spearman ISD and Pringle-Morse CISD students and teachers. Call the Reporter-Statesman at (806) 659-3434 for details!





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CLASSIFIED ADS

Thursday, November 27, 2003 - Page 9



Page 10 – Thursday, November 27, 2003

The Hanslord County Reporter-Statesman

5

Panhandle Crisis Center Seeks Volunteers

The Panhandle Crisis Center, a nonprofit organization, is located at 317 South Main Street in Perryton. The new outreach office is located in the Pittman-Shieldknight Office Building, at 511 SW 11th Street in Spearman. Formed in 1981 by a group of concerned citizens, the Crisis Center serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Hansford, Lipscomb and Ochiltree Counties.

Along with a 24-hour hotline, the Crisis Center provides counseling, emergency shelter, transportation and emergency food and clothing. Also offered are referral services for adult (male and female) and child victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Trained volunteers and staff conduct individual adult and child counseling. Follow up and walk-in counseling are available in the Perryton and Spearman offices and at designated outreach areas in Hansford and Lipscomb Counties. A full-time children's worker is located in the Perryton Office; this worker also goes into the Perryton school district to counsel with children. A new part-time worker has been hired for Hansford County. She will be working with children in Spearman and Gruver and counseling with the children in the Spearman and Gruver school district. The Hansford/Lipscomb outreach worker counsels with adults in the Hansford County area and adults and children in the Lipscomb area.

Advocacy and accompaniment through the medical, legal and judicial system are provided to clients as individual needs arise. The crisis center works with the Hansford, Lipscomb, and

Ochiltree County District Attorneys offices in preparing protective orders.

Crisis Center staff and on-call volunteers work closely with the police departments and sheriff's office in all three counties - as many times they are the first ones the victim calls for help.

Counseling and support groups are conducted in both English and Spanish. Parenting classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church located at 18th and Drake in Perryton. Batterers Intervention Prevention Program Classes meet on Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m.

Even though the Crisis Center has closed the old post office for remodeling, they are still providing furniture and clothing to clients using a house located on Baylor Street. A limited amount of donations are being taken at this time.

United Supermarket of Perryton donates food items to the Crisis Center. The items are used at the Center's 24-hour shelter and at the Office as an emergency food source for clients.

All victims' services offered through the Crisis Center are free except the BIPP classes, which are based on a sliding fee. The Crisis Center is able to provide services free of charge through federal and state grants, private donations, fundraisers, city and county funds, United Way donations and the use of trained volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the Crisis Center, contact the main office in Perryton at 435-5008, toll free 1-800-753-5308, or the Spearman outreach office at 659-3391.

Yes: I would	like to become a volunteer for the Panhandle Crisis Center	NOTICE
Name:Address:		_I The Hansford I County Reporter ─ Statesman ָ office
City, State, Zip: Please send this clipping to: An application will be sent to you	Panhandle Crisis Center PO Box 502 Perryton, TX 79070 by mail.	will be CLOSED November 24th-28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen or Monday, December 1st at 9 a.m.

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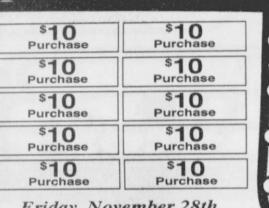
10nday, December 8, 2003, 6:30-7:30 pm

Beginning in the Living Room at

the

1 Hospice

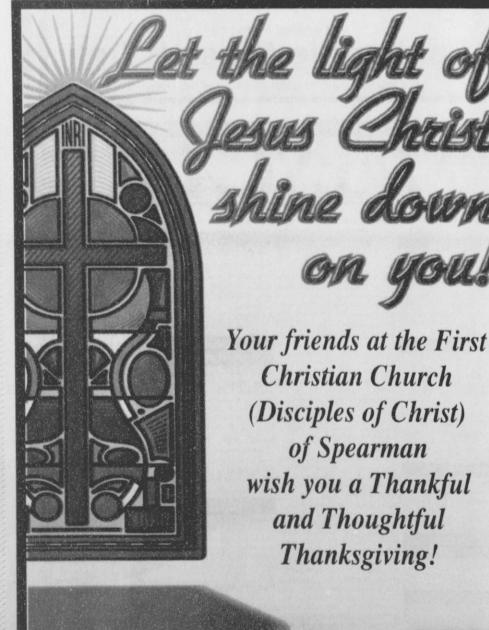
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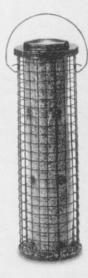
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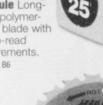
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